

Figure 1. Differences in Waste Management Terminology

## DIFFERENCES IN WASTE MANAGEMENT TERMINOLOGY

**POLLUTION PREVENTION:** Any activity which reduces the need to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste in any environmental media. Shifting the ultimate disposition of waste across media (i.e. incineration of organic solvents) is not considered a form of pollution prevention even if the total volume of hazardous waste is reduced. While source reduction is the preferred alternative, recycling, regeneration and reuse of raw materials are all acceptable forms of pollution prevention.

**WASTE REDUCTION:** In-plant practices that reduce, avoid, or eliminate the generation of hazardous waste so as to reduce risks to health and the environment. Actions taken away from the waste generating activity, including waste recycling or treatment, are not considered waste reduction.

**WASTE MINIMIZATION:** The reduction, to the extent feasible, of hazardous waste that is generated or subsequently treated, stored, or disposed of. It includes source reduction or recycling activity undertaken by a generator that results in 1) the reduction of total volume or quantity of hazardous waste, or 2) the reduction of toxicity of hazardous waste, or both, so long as the reduction is consistent with the goal of minimizing present and future threats to human health and the environment.